

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 20-23, 28-31 and 36-38 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1 – 38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) An image processor comprising:

~~an inputting~~ a scanning unit for reading a recording medium ~~and inputting read image data~~, the recording medium having first patterned image data printed thereon and image data printed thereon, the image data including embedded information, the first patterned image data including a latent image unperceivable by human eyes, the latent image being formed more clearly on a copy-destination recording medium when information recorded on the recording medium is copied by a copying machine;

a separating unit for separating the read image data input by the ~~inputting~~ scanning unit to obtain the image data including the embedded information; and

an outputting unit for controlling output of combined image data produced by combining ~~new-second~~ patterned image data with the image data including the embedded information, the ~~new-second~~ patterned image data including a latent image unperceivable by human eyes, the latent image being formed more

clearly on the copy-destination recording medium when information recorded on the recording medium is copied by the copying machine.

40. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to Claim 39, wherein the outputting unit includes an extracting unit for extracting the embedded information from the image data obtained by the separating unit, with the embedded information embedded therein,

wherein the outputting unit outputs the combined image data when the embedded information extracted by the extracting unit includes information indicating permission for copying the whole read image data,

wherein the outputting unit cuts out and outputs a part of the combined image data when the embedded information extracted by the extracting unit includes information indicating permission for copying a part of the read image data, and

wherein the outputting unit does not output the combined image data when the embedded information extracted by the extracting unit includes information indicating prohibition of copying.

41. (Currently Amended) The image processor according to Claim 39, wherein the ~~new~~ second patterned image data ~~including a latent image unperceivable by human eyes, the latent image being formed more clearly on a copy-destination recording medium when information recorded on the recording medium is copied by the copying machine,~~ is patterned image data that is stored

in advance or that is newly generated.

42. (Currently Amended) The image processor according to Claim 39,  
wherein the separating unit, by separating the read image data, also  
obtains the first patterned image data including the latent image appearing clearly  
in addition to the image data including information, and

wherein the outputting unit combines the ~~new~~ second patterned image  
data, instead of the patterned image data with the latent image appearing clearly,  
with the image data with the embedded information embedded therein, and  
controls output of the combined image data obtained by the combining operation.

43. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:  
~~an inputting step~~ a scanning step of reading a recording medium ~~and~~  
~~inputting read image data~~, the recording medium having first patterned image  
data printed thereon and image data with embedded information embedded  
therein, the first patterned image data including a latent image unperceivable by  
human eyes, the latent image being formed more clearly on a copy-destination  
recording medium when information recorded on the recording medium is copied  
by ~~the~~ a copying machine;

a separating step of separating the read image data ~~input in the~~  
~~inputting~~ read in the scanning step to obtain the image data with the embedded  
information embedded therein; and

an outputting step of controlling output of combined image data produced

by combining ~~new-second~~ patterned image data with the image data with the embedded information embedded therein, the ~~new-second~~ patterned image data including a latent image unperceivable by human eyes, the latent image being formed more clearly on the copy-destination recording medium when information recorded on the recording medium is copied by a copying machine.

44. (Previously Presented) The image processing method according to Claim 43,

wherein the outputting step includes an extracting step of extracting the embedded information from the image data, obtained in the separating step, including the embedded information,

wherein, in the outputting step, the combined image data is output when the embedded information extracted in the extracting step includes information indicating permission for copying the whole read image data,

wherein, in the outputting step, a part of the combined image data is cut out and output when the embedded information extracted in the extracting step includes information indicating permission for copying a part of the read image data, and

wherein, in the outputting step, the combined image data is not output when the embedded information extracted in the extracting step includes information indicating prohibition of copying.

45. (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to

Claim 43, wherein the ~~new-second~~ patterned image data ~~including a latent image unperceivable by human eyes, the latent image being formed more clearly on the copy destination recording medium when information recorded on the recording medium is copied by a copying machine,~~ is patterned image data that was stored in advance or that is newly generated.

46. (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to Claim 43,

wherein, by separating the read image data in the separating step, the patterned image data including the latent image appearing clearly is also obtained in addition to the image data including the embedded information, and wherein, in the outputting step, the ~~new-second~~ patterned image data, instead of the patterned image data including the latent image appearing clearly, is combined with the image data including the embedded information, and an output of the combined image data obtained by the combining operation is controlled.